



File Code: 1950-1/2330

Date: April 23, 2008

Dear Forest Stakeholder:

I would like to inform you of planned improvements to occur at popular recreation areas on the Chattahoochee National Forest, located in Union and Towns Counties. The improvements are planned for the Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area and Brasstown Bald Visitor Center. The aim of both projects is to provide accessible and improved facilities for the visiting public. I invite your comments on these plans.

The actions proposed at Brasstown Bald include the following items:

1. Replace the existing parking lot flush toilet with a new, modernized and accessible 6-unit flush toilet, to be sited in the current location of the concessions building. Add minor site improvements to ensure accessibility and improve upon day-use activities in the immediate area.
2. Demolish the existing flush toilet building and the existing concessions building in the parking lot level of the Brasstown Bald Recreation Area.
3. Replace the existing entrance station with a new, accessible entrance station.
4. Redesign the existing picnic area, including amenities, to ensure full accessibility for its users.

The actions proposed at Lake Winfield Scott include the following items:

1. Renovate the existing day-use bathhouse to modernize its facilities and provide for accessibility.
2. Provide an accessible pathway from the parking level to the beach and picnic area.
3. Add minor site improvements to ensure accessibility and improve upon day-use activities in the immediate area, such as picnic sites and trash bins.

The proposed actions will implement direction in the Chattahoochee-Oconee Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) listed under Recreation Opportunities/Experiences, Goal 31: "Provide a spectrum of high quality, nature-based recreation settings and opportunities, that reflect the unique or exceptional resources of the Forest and the interests of the public on an environmentally sustainable, financially sound, and operationally effective basis. Adapt management of recreation facilities and opportunities as needed to shift limited resources to those opportunities."

I would like to hear from you regarding these projects before making my decision. The



projects appear to fall into a category of actions that may be excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. Specifically, the projects fall within the following categorical exclusion from the Forest Service Environmental Policy and Procedures Handbook (1909.15), Chapter 30: Category 5, Chapter 31.12: Repair and maintenance of recreation facilities.

This determination will not be finalized until after consideration of your comments. Responses should contain relevant facts or comments that we can consider in reaching a final decision on these projects. Comments received, including names, become part of the project record and are available for public review. We would appreciate receiving your comments on the project by May 27, 2008. This will ensure a thorough and complete analysis of the proposal.

Send your written comments, along with your name and address, to the Blue Ridge District office, Attn: Alison Koopman, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 9, Blairsville, Georgia, 30514. You may also comment by phone or email to Alison Koopman at akoopman@fs.fed.us or (706) 745-6928, ext. 118.

Please note that you will be sent further correspondence on these proposals only if you comment on them or request further correspondence on them. Final decision documents are posted on the Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/conf/sopa/planning.htm>.

Thank you for your interest in the management of the Blue Ridge Ranger District.

Sincerely,

/s/ Alan Polk

ALAN POLK
District Ranger